

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02638 01 OF 02 121043Z

20/44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

OFA-01 DLOS-04 PA-01 PRS-01 /099 W  
----- 032534

R 101925Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8223

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 2638

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFORMATION)

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, JM

SUBJECT: SIXTH CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MONTEGO  
BAY, JULY 5-6, 1975

REFS: (A) KINGSTON A 115 DATED JUNE 30, 1975;

(B) KINGSTON A 89 MAY 6, 1975

SUMMARY: CARICOM MEETING ENDED WITH AGREEMENT BY MINISTERS OF 12 MEMBE  
R COUNTRIES ON A CARICOM PLAN OF  
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PAGE 02 KINGST 02638 01 OF 02 121043Z

ACTION TO ACCELERATE PRODUCTION AND PUT GREATER DYNAMISM

INTO REGIONAL INTEGRATION MOVEMENT. INDUSTRIALIZATION, PARTICULARLY FOR CARICOM'S LDC MEMBERS TO BE GIVEN A BOOST, REGIONAL TRADE TO BE ACCELERATED, TARGET SET FOR CARICOM SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN TEXTILES, SCHEME TO BE DEvised TO ENSURE HIGHER STANDARDS IN REGIONAL PRODUCTS, AND REVISION TO BE MADE OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING PROTOCOL. MINISTERS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A NUMBER OF EXPERT GROUPS TO REVIEW VARIOUS CARICOM MECHANISMS, ELIMINATE ANOMALIES, HELP SPEED UP DECISION MAKING, AND GENERALLY ROOT OUT CAUSES OF CONTENTION AMONG MEMBER TRADING PARTNERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, TALKS AMONG MINISTERS WERE FRUITFUL AND THEY GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC AT OUTCOME, ESPECIALLY AS THEY TOOK PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE DISPUTES. MEETING PROVED TO BE VITAL IN FOCUSING UPON NEED FOR ECONOMIC REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND THE NECESSITY OF CARICOM MEMBERS COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO IT. SPEECHES BY KEY TRADE OFFICIALS CONTRIBUTED TO ATMOSPHERE OF CONCILIATION AND COOPERATION.

END SUMMARY.

1. SUBJECT MEETING OCCURRED AFTER ONE-DAY INAUGURAL MEETING OF A STANDING COMMITTEE OF INDUSTRY MINISTERS AND CAPPED A WEEK OF PREPARATORY SESSIONS. DISCUSSIONS WERE AIMED PRIMARILY AT FURTHERING INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES IN CARICOM AND EXPANDING TRADE AMONG MEMBER STATES THROUGH GREATER USE OF REGIONAL RAW MATERIALS. COMMUNIQUE ON COUNCIL MEETING SPOKE OF URGENT NEED TO CURB FOOD IMPORT BILL FOR CARICOM STATES (\$1 BILLION), REDUCE SEVERE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT AND PROMOTE REGIONAL IMPORT SUBSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY FOOD

(A) INDUSTRIALIZATION: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS EXPLORED VIABILITY OF ESTABLISHING NEW INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY WITH AGRICULTURAL BASE. STUDIES INCLUDE DEVELOPING REGIONAL CAPABILITY IN STARCH AND FLOUR FOR HUMAN AND ANIMAL CONSUMPTION, COTTON, LEATHER, FOOD PROCESSING, CEMENT, STEEL AND PAPER PRODUCTS ON BASIS OF JOINT REGIONAL COOPERATION. MINISTERS' COUNCIL AGREED THAT EFFECTIVE PROTECTION SHOULD BE GIVEN REGIONAL LEATHER AND LEATHER GOODS INDUSTRY AND THAT STEPS SHOULD

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PAGE 03 KINGST 02638 01 OF 02 121043Z

BET TAKEN TO ENSURE GREATER UTILIZATION OF REGIONAL HIDES, SKINS, AND LEATHER IN LEATHER GOODS MANUFACTURE. THEY FURTHER AGREED ON PROPOSALS UNDER TREATY PROVISIONS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN LDCS OF CARICOM BY GIVING PROTECTION TO FIVE NEW INDUSTRIES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN LDCS.

(B) REGIONAL TRADE: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECOGNIZED

THAT EXISTING INTRA-REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED ADJUSTMENT AND DECIDED TO SPEED UP WORK ON PROCESS LIST INCLUDING APPROPRIATE DELETIONS FROM BASIC MATERIALS LIST WITH VIEW OF INTRODUCING IT TO ALL MEMBER STATES NOT LATER THAN MAY 1, 1976. WORKING GROUP OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WILL REVIEW COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF AND CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR RATE INCREASES IN COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF ON CERTAIN RAW MATERIALS AND POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF SPECIFIC RAW MATERIALS FROM EXEMPTIONS LIST. SPECIAL TASK FORCE WILL PREPARE BY MARCH 31, 1976 A COMPREHENSIVE RESUME FOR REGIONAL QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS (I.E. PROHIBITIONS WITHIN CARICOM ON IMPORTS INTO, OR EXPRTS FROM, ANY OTHER MEMBER STATE, WHETHER MADE EFFECTIVE THROUGH QUOTA, IMPORT LICENSES OR OTHER MASURES WITH EQUIVALENT EFFECT) ESPECIALLY TO HARMONIZE NATIONAL RESUME OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON RAW MATERIALS. TASK FORCE WILL STUDY POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING ON REGIONAL BASIS SPECIFIC FORMULA TO RELATE IMPORT ALLOCATIONS TO PRUCHASE OF REGIONALLY PRODUCED FABRICS

(C) MINISTERS EXAMINED FEASIBILITY EXPANDING CARICOM TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND AGREED ON PROPOSALS ENSURING MARKED DEGREE OF REGIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN TEXTILES BY 1980. A FUTURE SPECIAL WORKING PARTY WILL PRESENT DEFINITIVE ACTION PROGRAM TO MINISTERS BY EARLY 1976; PROGRAM TO REVOLVE AROUND ASSISTANCE TO SEA ISLAND COTTON PRODUCERS AND LARGE SCALE CULTIVATION OF MEDIUM STAPLE COTTON IN CERTAIN MEMBER COUNTRIES, POSSIBLY ST. VINCENT, GUYANA, BELIZE.

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02638 02 OF 02 111151Z

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

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COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

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R 101945Z JUL 75  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8224  
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
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(D) MINISTERS SET DECEMBER 31, 1976 AS DEADLINE  
FOR DECISION ON REGIONAL SCHEME OF STANDARDS AND SAID  
MEMBER STATES WOULD DEFER UNILATERAL ACTION ON  
STANDARDS RELATING TO CARICOM TRADE TILL END OF YEAR

(E) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING PROTOCOL: MINISTERS  
AGREED THAT CARICOM SECRETARIAT SHOULD SET UP WORKING  
PARTY TO REVIEW PROTOCOL FOR POSSIBLE REVISION AND TO  
PROPOSE A NEW PRICE FIXING FORMULA WHEREBY CARICOM  
COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A SUITABLE PRICE FOR  
SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FROM OTHER MEMBER  
STATES HAVING SHORTAGES  
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PAGE 02 KINGST 02638 02 OF 02 111151Z

(F) THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED PROVISIONS SIGNED  
UNDER THE EEC-ACP CONVENTION OF FEBRUARY 1975, PROPOSALS  
MADE BY BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CARIBBEAN ASSOCIA-  
TION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (CAIC), AND REPORTS ON  
EXTERNAL TRADE RELATIONS OF MEMBER STATES.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM PRESS  
REPORTS AND TALKS WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONTACTS THAT  
SUBJECT COUNCIL MEETING WAS INTENSE, HARD WORK SESSION.  
MINISTERS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN CALM, REALISTIC APPROACH  
TOWARDS IDENTIFYING CARICOM PROBLEMS AND SETTING UP  
MECHANISMS TO SOLVE THEM. FOR THE MOMENT, CARICOM STILL  
EXISTS INSPITE OF PREVIOUS STRAINS (REF A). THIS IN  
ITSELF IS AN ACHIEVEMENT, GIVEN VOCAL CRITICISM ABOUT  
IRREGULAR TRADING PRACTICES BETWEEN CERTAIN CARICOM  
PARTNERS AND CONTINUOUS PRESS COVERAGE ABOUT THE MANLEY-  
WILLIAMS CLASH OF VIEW POINTS ON CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION.  
IN ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC CONFRONTATION, SPEECHES OF  
P J PATTERSON, JAMAICA'S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM,

AND FOREIGN TRADE, ALISTAIR MCINTYRE, CARICOM SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND S S RAMPHAL, COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL, STROVE TO KEEP A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF MANLEY AND WILLIAMS BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF A "WIDER CARIBBEAN" (INCLUDING LATIN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES) ON THE ONE HAND BUT ALSO RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR CARICOM TO CONSOLIDATE ITSELF FROM WITHIN. RAMPHAL SPOKE OF THE "PARAMOUNTCY OF THE CONSOLIDATION AND STRENGTHENING OF CARICOM" AND THE "GREATEST DANGER THAT FACES THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION IN THE REGION", I.E. "WIDENING OUR CARIBBEN COMMUNITY AT SO EARLY A POINT IN ITS FORMATIVE STAGE THAT WE IMPAIR OUR PROSPECT OF DEEPENING THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION ITSELF". RAMPHAL ADDED THAT CARICOM SHOULD LIMIT ITSM MEMBERSHIP TO THE PRESENT 12 COUNTRIES FOR A LIMITED PERIOD. GERARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 KINGSTON A-115, 75 KINGSTON A-89  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SIXTH CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MONTEGO BAY, JULY 5-6, 1975  
**TAGS:** ECIN, JM, CARICOM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006